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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

Report of Germany

Summary**

The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names is the body responsible for developing recommendations on the standardization of geographical names.

The sixth edition of the toponymic guidelines of Germany was published in 2016 and is available online.[1]

The languages of four national minorities residing in Germany — the Danes, the Frisians, the Sorbs and the German Sinti and Roma — are officially recognized as minority languages. Low German has the status of a regional language, thus giving it protection under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Geographical names in Frisian and Upper and Lower Sorbian are in use.

In 2002, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names published the second edition of its list of selected German-language exonyms. It is now preparing an updated list, to be made available online by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy.

The German data set provided for the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe project is a single database entitled "Geographical names of Germany". It is currently used for geographical names within the German spatial data infrastructure.

A new web map service showing the physiogeographic regions of Germany has been available online since May 2017.[2]

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Bernd Edwin Beinstein and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/48/CRP.48.

[1] See www.stagn.de/empfehlung-schreibweise-gn.

[2] See www.geoportal.de.

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In cooperation with the relevant surveying offices, the northern federal states revised and updated four maps covering German coastal waters, which were published in 2017. Some 1,500 names common to the coastal waters of the North and Baltic seas are shown.

An updated list of country names in German (the thirteenth such edition) was published by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in January 2014.[3]

[3] Available from www.stagn.de/liste-staatennamen.